



National Museum of Health and Medicine

Otis Historical Archives

OHA 97 Angier and Hitchcock Collection

Date of Records: 1918-1960

Size: 3 linear feet, 3 boxes

Finding aid by: Sara Gonzales, 2011; revised by Eric Boyle (2014)

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Biographical Note: The World War Reconstruction Aides (also known as Re-Aides) were a group of occupational and physical therapists who served, under the auspices of either the American Red Cross or the American Expeditionary Forces of the U.S. Army, in Army hospitals in France and the U.S. during World War I. Many former Aides later joined the World War Reconstruction Aides Association (WWRAA), a group which preserved the history of the Aides and organized conventions for members. The Reconstruction Aides were pioneers in the field of occupational therapy.

A long-time member and officer of the WWRAA was Estelle M. Angier, whose donation was the basis of the collection. Angier began her service at Walter Reed General Hospital in 1918, caring for patients with influenza. After receiving training in physical therapy, she was transferred to Fort Sheridan, IL (on Lake Michigan, about 30 miles north of Chicago) in April 1919. She eventually became Head Aide there, and worked largely with nerve injuries. She continued to serve as a Reconstruction Aide until 1920. She served as an officer for the WWRAA from its inception in the early 1920s until it dissolved in 1952.

Anna Lena Frances Hitchcock also served as a Reconstruction Aide in World War I. She became an occupational therapist Reconstruction Aide in spring 1918 at Walter Reed General Hospital. In summer 1918 she traveled to France to serve in U.S. Army hospitals. She served most of her time in France at Base 9, Chateauroux, working as an occupational therapist and nurse's aide. She was evacuated from Base 9 in February, 1919. Back at Walter Reed General Hospital in June 1919, she continued in occupational therapy and was promoted to Head Aide. She applied for discharge in February 1920. In 1933 she was president of the Washington Unit, Women's Overseas Service League, in DC.

This information was adapted from: Hoppin, Laura Brackett (ed.). *History of the World War Reconstruction Aides*. Millbrook, NY: William Tyldsley, 1933.



Series/Scope and Content Note: The collection contains materials donated separately to the Army Medical Museum by both Angier and Hitchcock, which were combined due to their similar scope: documents, photographs and correspondence related to the World War Reconstruction Aides. Additional WWRAA material can be found in OHA 371: World War Reconstruction Aides Association Manuscript Collection, which also includes the blank charter mentioned in the Angier material.

SERIES 001: ESTELLE M. ANGIER COLLECTION

This series was donated to the Army Medical Museum in 1961, with various later additions. Angier's collection includes materials related to her service with the WWRAA, including a ledger recording dues payments and letters to the 1941 WWRAA Convention. Angier also donated a photograph album compiled by another Reconstruction Aide, Louise C. Robinson, illustrating the recovery of soldiers with maxilla-facial injuries at Jefferson Barracks from 1919-1920. One item, a carved leather book cover with the WWRA insignia, made to hold the records of the Chicago unit, is held in the National Museum of Health and Medicine's Historical Collections. In addition, a note on an early box list states that a blank charter of the World War Reconstruction Aides is stored in the oversized map cases.

Items mentioned in 1961 accession record but not in collection as of 2011:

1. A. Treasurer's report: Aug 25, 1945 – Sept 9, 1947, with bills
B. Treasurer's report: Sept 10, 1947 – Feb 8, 1951, with bills
C. Treasurer's report: June 19, 1931 – Dec. 1949, with members' dues
2. Secretary's list of members
3. Greetings to the 1949 Reunion – Questionnaires
4. Copy of "Chevrons," Vol. 1, #1 May 1928. Edward Hines Jr. Hospital, Maywood, Illinois

SERIES 002: ANNA LENA FRANCES HITCHCOCK COLLECTION

A calendar of items included with Hitchcock's materials notes that she was "born Anna Lena Francis Hitchcock in 1890 in Norfolk, VA. She was one of the first occupational therapists assigned not to the Red Cross, as had always happened previously, but to the American Expeditionary Forces – A.E.F., part of the U. S. Army." Item numbers in Series 002 correspond to numbers assigned in the original calendar. This series includes various official documents from Hitchcock's time as a Reconstruction Aide, photographs and other documents from a scrapbook of her time as an Aide, and a copy of her manuscript, "The Great Adventure," which recounts her days as an Aide.

Items included in the original calendar, not in collection as of 2011:

57. Envelope to J. V. Speel.
59. French ticket.
62. 1918 Christmas Card from patient.

SERIES 003: WORLD WAR RECONSTRUCTION AIDE MATERIALS

This series contains materials added to the collection due to their relation to the WWRA. It includes a diploma of Elizabeth Jarvis Winn, another Reconstruction Aide, as well as a stamp and pin bearing the WWRA insignia and various physical therapy and occupational therapy newspaper clippings.



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BOX AND CONTENT LIST

SERIES 001: ESTELLE M. ANGIER COLLECTION

Box 001:

- 00001: Book of Postcards featuring Walter Reed General Hospital. No date.
- 00002: Small painting (11" W x 7" H) of the World War Reconstructions Aides logo/insignia.
- 00003: Typed list of World War Reconstruction Aide Association members as of May 15, 1939.
- 00004: Typed or hand-written materials provided by Estelle Angier to the Museum. Includes a list of U.S. Army hospitals in WWI that used Reconstruction Aides, and an obituary for Mrs. Clyde McDowell Myer (former Reconstruction Aide) that was sent to Col. Myra McDaniel at the Army Medical Museum.
- 00005: Various WWI – WWII era disability, physical therapy and government publications. Includes pamphlets, a reprint of a Red Cross article on disabled soldiers, and maps of Walter Reed Army Base.
- 00006: Selection of physical therapy and occupational therapy-related newspaper and magazine clippings. Dates span 1918 – 1943.
- 00007: Book, *U.S.A. General Hospital No. 28, Fort Sheridan, Illinois*, by Edward O. Harrs and Sydney B. Flower, U.S. Army. Published c. 1920s. Contains information about occupational therapy and curative workshops. Estelle Angier's address label is on front.
- 00008: Book, *History of the World War Reconstruction Aides* by Laura Brackett Hoppin, 1933. Consists of an entry for each Aide with small blurbs of information (location, quotes, etc.).
- 00009: Five issues of the magazine "Carry On: A Magazine of the Reconstruction of Disabled Soldiers and Sailors."
Vol. 1, No. 6, March 1919
Vol. 1, No. 7, April 1919 (2 copies, one with address sticker of Louise C. Robinson)
Vol. 1, No. 9, June 1919
Vol. 1, No. 10, July, 1919



00010: Six issues of physical therapy journals:

- "The PT Review," Vol. 1, No. 4, December 1921.
- "The Physiotherapy Review," Vol. IX, No. 3, June, 1929
- "The Physiotherapy Review," Vol. IX, No. 6, December, 1929
- "The Physiotherapy Review," Vol. X, No. 1, January-February, 1930
- "The Physiotherapy Review," Vol. X, No. 2, March-April 1930
- "The Physiotherapy Review," Vol. 20, No. 3, May-June 1940

00011: Letters to the 1941 Convention of the WWRAA, addressed to Estelle Angier at her home in Wheaton, IL. Letters are RSVP's to attend the "Twenty-First Birthday Party of the World War Reconstruction Aides Association" held July 9 – July 11, 1941 at the Hotel Morrison in Chicago, IL (per a copy of the invitation included with the letters).

00012: Black 2-ring binder used by Angier to hold the letters to the 1941 Convention of the WWRAA.

00013: Book, *Reveille: The Call to a New Life. Centennial Memorial of Fort Snelling*. 1919: U.S. General Hospital No. 29, Fort Snelling, MN. Inscription on flyleaf notes that book was a gift to the Army Medical Museum from Mrs. Grace Meeker-Hasenfany of Evergreen Park, IL, July 1, 1960. AFIP No. 908,950-2.

Box 002:

00001: Ledger of WWRAA members' dues payments, 1942 – 1949. AFIP No. 908,950-6

00002: Photograph album compiled by Louise C. Robinson. Pictures of maxilla-facial patients at Jefferson Barracks, 1919-1920. AFIP No. 908,950-1. Included are two copies of a DVD with scanned pictures from the scrapbook of patients Alex Nesbit, Clifford Blair, DeWitt Laing, Herbert Ecklund, John Hall, and Laurids Lauridsen.

00003: Pin with WWRA insignia.

00004: Stamp with WWRA insignia.

SERIES 002: ANNA LENA FRANCES HITCHCOCK COLLECTION

Box 003:

00001: General Correspondence

1. March 2, 1918, from SGO: "Appointment of Hitchcock as a Reconstruction Aide."
2. March 2, 1918, from SGO: "Orders," to report to Walter Reed General Hospital.
3. March 12, 1918, from A.L. Hitchcock to S.G.: "Report of arrival at W.R.G.H."
4. May 18, 1918, "General Orders: Contract for Hitchcock as Reconstruction Aide" (3 pages, poor condition. On rear of document is a history of duty stations, etc.)
5. July 2, 1918, Affidavit affirming American Citizenship for A.L.F. Hitchcock.



6. February 3, 1919, "Record of Assignment and Pay of Reconstruction Aide Hitchcock, A. Lena F."
7. January 31, 1919, Special Orders, transfer of A.L.F. Hitchcock from Base Hospital No. 63 to Hospital Centerm Savenay in France.
8. July 13, 1920, from Medical Corps Headquarters, "Discharge and Service Records."
9. (No date) List of Base Hospital no. 14 Reconstruction Aides.
10. July 29 (no year), letter from A.L.F. Hitchcock to Col. MacDaniel offering material about WWRA for use in Army Medical Museum exhibit. She explains several aspects of her involvement in the Army as an occupational therapist.
11. (Not marked as 11): March 2, 1918, Letter confirming A.L.F. Hitchcock's appointment as a Reconstruction Aide.
12. (Not marked as 12): July 5, 1918, U.S. War Department's Certificate of Identity for A.L.F. Hitchcock.
13. (Not marked as 13): August 26, 1918, Worker's Permit to work in French hospitals for A.L.F. Hitchcock.

00002: Photographs 11 – 15, 31. Ward 7, Chateauroux, France, illustrating various types of occupational therapy.

00003: Photographs 16 – 30. Miscellaneous photographs from France and possibly U.S.A., c. 1918-1919. Includes military hospitals, rehabilitation wards, patient life, aides' lives, sale of American toys and "Victory Notes."

Photograph 26 shows Hitchcock with five of her friends from Base 9, Chateauroux: Hope Gray, Daphne Dunbar, Louise Green, Elizabeth Meltzer, and Head Aide Susan W. Hills. All of these women are mentioned in Hitchcock's manuscript "The Great Adventure."

00004: Enlargement of Photograph 26.

00005: Photographs 32 – 39. French Occupational Therapy Hospitals, WWI.

00006: Photographs 40 – 43. Private Herbert G. Hahn. Underwent occupational therapy at Ward 7, Base 9 Chateauroux, December 1918. Photographed in New York, August 1919.

00007: Photographs 44 – 48. WWI Occupational Therapy. Exercise and crafts.

00008: Item 49: Original and three copies of "Bill at Walter Reed," 1919. Cartoons drawn by occupational therapy patients to "Mable," based on the "Dere Mable" series of books by Edward Streeter.

00009: Hitchcock's Washington DC and France WWI-era memorabilia, items 50 - 68.

50. "Victoire," (French Postcard, WWI).

51. Dec. 21, 1918 Travel permit for Hitchcock to Paris, St. Raphael, Toulouse, Chateauroux.

52. Original newspaper clipping and two copies from 1918, with accompanying handwritten note: "1st Official hospital uniforms worn at Walter Reed Hospital by Katherine Semple of St. Louis, one of the very first O.T.s."



53. Clipping of a photograph from a newspaper with the caption "A reconstruction aide teaching a wounded soldier to make a knotted belt. The intricacy of the task is sufficient to occupy his whole attention until he has mastered the job."
54. Poem by a patient entitled "The Cattle." Handwritten note by Hitchcock says "The boy who wrote this overheard someone say 'Let's go to see the cattle eat.' Miss Hill thought it was his inspiration."
55. Drawings of the WWRA uniform, on each side of one piece of paper. One side shows uniform, other shows accompanying coat, cape and hat.
56. Tour ticket, French.
58. Embroidered postcard, French.
60. French currency, two Francs.
61. August 20, 1918 article from the "Washington Star," on "Washingtonians in France."
63. June 30, 1918 article from the "Washington Post," about Anna Hitchcock departing for duty in France.
64. Envelope, to Mrs. John Speel.
65. Christmas Sketch. "Merry Xmas A.E.F., 1918."
66. Christmas card, to Miss A. L. Hitchcock from "the boys."
67. Caption regarding wounded Sgt. Dodwell, maker of item 68.
68. Valentine card, with handwritten note: "Block-cut, printed and colored by Sgt. Dodwell, 314 Inf., 79th Div. Ward 7, Base 9, Chateauroux, January 1919."

00010: Items 69 – 72. Photographs of Chateau Roul and Chateauroux, 1919, and per handwritten note "Original cartoons drawn by Patient in Ward 3, Base 9, Chateauroux. Block-cut, and printed by him also." The photos and cartoons are all attached to their original Hitchcock scrapbook page.

00011: Item 73, per handwritten note: "Block prints designed by Hope Gray for her patients at Base 9, Chateauroux, France, 1918."

00012: Items 74 – 80. Postcards made by patients in Ward 7, Base 9, Chateauroux, France.

00013: Items 81 – 87. Includes:

81. Poem, "When de Bluebirds Come" written by Hughes Mearns at Walter Reed Hospital.
82. Cartoon, "Portrait of Head Aide at Hard Labor" featuring Miss Hitchcock.
- 83-85. Photographs taken around the campus of Walter Reed General Hospital.
86. Menu from the Church of the Epiphany's welcome home dinner on June 11 (1919?). On back are listed the names of Church members who served in the Army or Navy during WWI, including Anna L.F. Hitchcock.
87. Walter Reed General Hospital, 1918 map.

00014: Possible Hitchcock materials, not mentioned on the calendar of Hitchcock's materials or container list contained in the collection's boxes. Includes letter from King George welcoming the U.S. fighting forces to Britain, a Red Cross postcard, a French postcard, a block print, and a news clipping of the poem "To an Aide" (with transcription typed on paper).

00015: Copy of "The Great Adventure" manuscript by Anna L.F. Hitchcock, recounting her days



serving as a World War I Reconstruction Aide.

SERIES 003: WORLD WAR RECONSTRUCTION AIDE MATERIALS

Box 003 :

00016: Newspaper clippings of World War I veterans receiving treatment at Fort McHenry, physical and occupational therapy aides, evacuation of troops and staff from Europe after the War, and the National Society Daughters of 1812.

00017: "The Sun" magazine clipping (March 4, 1956) containing an article written by Elizabeth Jarvis Winn, a former World War I Reconstruction Aide.

00018: Elizabeth Jarvis Winn's diploma from the Boston School of Occupational Therapy, dated October 5, 1918.

00019: Copy of newsletter, "The Come-Back," dated March 27, 1925. Contains article on the graduation of the 1924-1925 Junior Aides from occupational therapy courses at Walter Reed General Hospital.